

Judicial Branch News

Reunification Day 2017



Story on Page 3

Features

- 3 Reunification Day 2017
- 4 Judge Q-and-A: Stephen Hopkins
- 5 Employee Anniversaries
- 6 New Jury Administrator
- 7 Reunification Day Photo Highlights
- 8 Survey Testimonials
- 9 Employee Satisfaction Survey



Judicial Branch News

The Judicial Branch News is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations Department.

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Committed to excellence and the principles inherent in the rule of law...
every person, every day, every time.

Reunification Day 2017



Family portraits at the fourth annual Reunification Day.

As part of Arizona Family Reunification Month, Maricopa County Superior Court hosted its fourth annual Family Reunification Day on June 10 at Sun Valley Community Church in Tempe, AZ.

The event honored 16 families who have successfully achieved family reunification, with a lunch and commemorative program.

“All children need a safe, stable home where they receive care, love and nurturing that they need to grow to be healthy, happy and productive adults,” said Judge Colleen McNally, Presiding Juvenile Department Judge. “Reunification Day is a day to honor families who have successfully overcome the challenges that brought their children into foster care. These families have demonstrated their strength and resilience and have been successful in providing safe and stable homes for their children.”

When child abuse or neglect has occurred, children may be removed from their home to ensure their safety and well-being. Parents then have an opportunity to address the challenges which led to their children’s removal. This includes the creation and fulfillment of a detailed case plan. In order to complete this process, parents must work closely and comply with orders from a judge, and also meet regularly with caseworkers and attorneys.

In Fiscal Year 2016, two thousand three hundred and twelve children exited the foster care system due to being reunified with their parent or guardian. This represents 36.8 percent of all the children who left court supervision in Fiscal Year 2016, which is up from 32 percent in FY15.

“Reunification takes work, commitment and the investment of time and resources by parents, caseworkers, foster parents, service providers, advocates and the courts,” said Judge McNally. “This family reunification celebration honors the families, but it also recognizes the community commitment in Maricopa County to supporting families in making changes needed to keep them safe and together.”

Maricopa County is just one of many communities across the country that hosted a Reunification Day Celebration during the month of June. Organizers of this event include Maricopa County Superior Court, the Arizona Office of the Attorney General, Maricopa County Office of the Legal Advocate, Maricopa County Office of the Legal Defender, Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate, the Department of Child Safety, CASA of Maricopa County, Casey Family Programs, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, Voices for CASA Children, and members of the community.

Q-and-A: Hon. Stephen Hopkins



What do you like the most about your current assignment?

The ability to help and protect children makes this a great assignment. Although the parties are sometimes difficult and irrational a Family Court judge has a unique opportunity to positively impact a child's life.

What advice would you give a new lawyer?

Hon. Stephen Hopkins Do not risk getting a bad reputation in the legal community by being unreasonable. As a lawyer your reputation is everything.

What do you think has changed the most in the legal profession since you attended law school?

Much has changed. The two most striking things to me are the increased emphasis on law as a business rather than as a profession, and the proliferation of free information via the Internet and otherwise, which can be both positive and negative.

What is your favorite thing to do when you are not working?

I love to play softball, and ride my mountain bike.

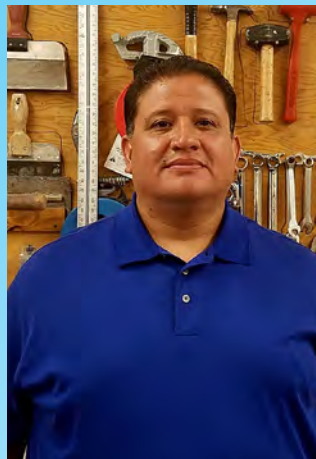
What piece of advice would you give your 20 year-old self?

Don't wait until you are in your 50's to apply to become a judge; it's the best job you will ever have.

If you weren't a judge what would you be?

I am not sure I am qualified to be anything other than a judge or a lawyer. But, I love to read and I love food so being a book or food critic would be wonderful jobs. That assumes being a professional baseball player is off the table.

Meet Mr. James Prieto



James Prieto

The Judicial Branch hired James Prieto as its new facilities manager. The newsletter staff caught up with Mr. Prieto after a couple months on the job and asked him some questions.

Why did you want to join the Judicial Branch?

Working for the Judicial Branch gives me a chance to sharpen my skills in a new environment and to work with people who expect and provide professionalism with high standards.

Where did you work before the Judicial Branch?

Previously, I worked for Terros Health as the Assistant Director of Facilities. My role at Terros mainly focused on maintaining all medical and housing facilities throughout the state and ensuring all buildings met codes and standards. I also managed their fleet department and took on other tasks. Before Terros, I worked within different divisions of the State of Arizona for 20 years in facilities management.

How has your experience been so far? Is it any different than you expected?

During the interview process, Hugh Gallagher (retired) and Deputy Court Administrator Bob James extensively detailed the job requirements and what would be expected. I admired their attention to detail and integrity. So, the experience has been exactly what I anticipated. I'm grateful for the opportunity, and I am enjoying the experience.

When it comes to customer service how do you ensure the customer or employees are always satisfied?

To ensure my customers and employees are satisfied, I make time to be available to them as much as possible and do my best to provide effective and continuous communication.

Describe your colleagues at the Judicial Branch.

It's a pleasure to be a part of the team. The team I work with is very welcoming and helpful in sharing their knowledge and experience working here.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Carolyn Arteaga - Adult Probation Officer
 Fernando Cabral - Trades Generalist
 Stephen Chatman - Juvenile Detention Officer
 Catherine M Childers - Judicial Clerk
 Wanda Jack - Judicial Clerk Senior
 Heather O'Brien - Juvenile Detention Officer
 Kimberly Roberson - Adult Probation Officer
 Geoffrey Fish - Superior Court Judge
 Shaun Dahl - Adult Probation Officer
 Lorraine Hickok - Judicial Clerk
 Blanca Manquero - Office Assistant Specialized
 Jesus Gaitan - Judicial Clerk Senior
 Melissa Nunez - Presentence Screener
 Gregg Dandy - Adult Probation Officer
 Jeremy Lumpkins - Comm System Operator Supervisor
 Sylvia Fisher - Court Interpreter
 Sarah E Burns - Court Interpreter
 Leticia Gauna - Judicial Assistant

10 Years

Cynthia N Romero - Adult Probation Officer
 Rita Schulze - Bailiff
 Meredith Patricia Collins - Juvenile Detention Officer
 Veronica Pena - Adult Probation Officer
 Joseph Welty - Superior Court Judge
 Lisa Ybarra - Judicial Clerk
 Donna Dunholter - Registered Nurse
 Eddie Hernandez - Judicial Branch Security Officer
 Francisco Bustillo - Adult Probation Officer
 Sharon Andersen-Head - Justice System Manager
 Carmen Miranda - Judicial Branch Security Officer

15 Years

Adelowo Adeniran - Juvenile Probation Officer
 Sheree Manuelito - Juvenile Detention Officer
 Cameil Kimble - Prison Rape Eilm Act Comp Manager

20 Years

Angelo Maisto - Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
 Gustavo Rodriguez - Judicial Clerk Associate
 David S Elston - Warehouse/Inventory Supervisor
 Billye Harris - Juvenile Detention Officer



25 Years

Olga Longoria - Juvenile Probation Officer
 Lisa Brooks - Adult Probation Officer
 Norma Brasda - Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Jerome Callahan - Adult Probation Officer
 Margaret (Peggy) Francis - Adult Probation Officer
 Mark Smalley - Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Jeff Gallimore - Adult Surveillance Officer
 Susan Savoy - Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
 Kathryn Andrysiak - Nurse Practitioner

32 Years

Faith Sawyer - Judicial Clerk Lead

33 Years

Debra Austin - Operations Support Analyst
 Ricky McKaig - Judicial Staff Trainer/Coordinator

** Information provided by the Human Resources Department*

New Jury Administrator



Nicole Garcia

Superior Court appointed Nicole Garcia as the new Jury Administrator.

Garcia has been managing the Jury Office in an interim capacity since December, 2016. Previously, she served as Deputy Director of the Jury Office since September of 2014. In addition, Garcia has served in several other capacities in the Court, including time in Criminal Court Administration and as the Judge Pro Tem Coordinator.

"She has guided the Jury Office through this transitory period and has demonstrated excellent leadership skills, as well as providing outstanding customer service to jurors, the Bench, and other customers," Judicial Branch Administrator Raymond Billotte said.

Garcia holds a Master's degree from Arizona State University and is a Fellow of the National Center for State Courts.

New iCISng App



Judge Ronda Fisk pilots the new eDisposition application in iCISng for Criminal Department. It is now possible for Judicial Officers to reinstate or revoke probation as part of eSentencing.

By Todd Herrera-Ridenhour

APD Statewide Honors



Brenda Crawley



Fred Wilhalme

The Arizona Chief Probation Officers' Association has selected Fred Wilhalme, adult probation officer, to receive the 2016 Line Officer of the Year Award and Brenda Crawley, executive assistant to the adult probation chief, to receive the 2016 Employee of the Year Award. The awards recognize probation employees who have performed assigned duties in an outstanding manner and/or made significant contributions to the probation profession. An award ceremony will be held in September.

APD Yearly Awards



Left to right - Fred Wilhame, Patrick Ward, APD Chief Barbara Broderick, Brenda Crawley and Leslie Ebratt

Recently, Adult Probation recognized the department's 2016 Of the Year Award winners:

Brenda Crawley - Employee of the Year
Leslie Ebratt - Supervisor of the Year
Patrick Ward - Surveillance Officer of the Year
Fred Wilhalme - Probation Officer of the Year

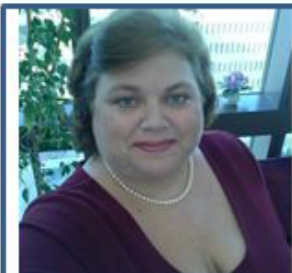
The individuals were selected by fellow employees for going above and beyond in the performance of their duties and promoting the mission and vision of the department.

Reunification Day Photo Highlights



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN....

We asked some of our employees why it is important to participate in the Employee Satisfaction Survey.

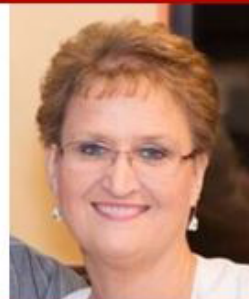


I think it's important for employees to be able to express their opinions on how the court overall and how management is doing. If they're unhappy about something, this is their chance to express that. If they feel as though something good and right is happening, they can express that as well. It gives employees a chance to give feedback to management in the hopes that management will do something with that feedback and make positive changes.

~Lorin Smith, CITS Interpreter Coordinator

I would encourage everyone to find something they are passionate about and get involved. Join a committee to make a difference. Employees should consider participating in ESS committees, or any committee, because it gives the opportunity to collaborate with others on a topic they would like to see a change in. Sharing ideas, concerns and seeing the end result from their hard work while participating on a committee is extremely satisfying. End results make HUGE differences and benefit many branch employees. If an employee is thinking something needs to be refreshed, does not like the way something is working or would just like to propose a new way or new idea....a committee is the place; not to mention it looks great on a yearly evaluation.

~Kim Kelly, APD Supervisor



It is important to participate in the Employee Satisfaction Survey so that the things we are doing well can be recognized and the things we need to improve upon can be addressed in a proactive way. It also gives a voice to the employees who may not believe or feel that they are being heard. I have seen positive changes made from past survey results.

~Michelle Lunn, JPD Supervisor

I think it is important to participate in the Employee Satisfaction Survey because it provides the opportunity for the employee to have a voice. It allows an employee to express what they feel is great about their place of employment as well as their concerns. It creates buy-in and a sense of being valued when an employee is heard.

~Scott Gibson, APD Probation Officer



It is important to have a voice in the workplace that is honest and clear. There are times when we become hesitant to use that voice. The Employee Satisfaction Survey is my opportunity to use that voice and know it will be heard and considered. I absolutely know good things have come from the survey!

~Tammi Asay, Criminal Department Supervisor



AVAILABLE

July 5th through July 25th

**Taken at your computer,
completely anonymous!**